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OUR FOREIGN LEADERS

NO. 1.

Major Ouchterlony of Sweden.

"Still," she says, "I tried to love God. I say to my sister, 'Surely I go to hell, there is no place else for me! I can't love God, I can't pray to God, 'Oh, God, I can't love Thee!' After this I got happier, but could not say I was saved."

One day a friend took her to hear some clergyman preach. He was very plain and simple, and made her see clearly how Christ died, so that she might be able to "save the soul." From that day she began to kneel. But let her tell her story herself—

"God sent me to Stockholm about this. I could not think for why I go am in temptations. I begin to tell all my friends at home, and would not go to parties, or do the things I did. They say, it will go off, you are excited."

"Some few weeks after this I met Mr. Bramwell Booth at a friend's house. He was making a visit in Sweden. When I did look on him the first time, God's Spirit did say to me, 'here is the man who will explain to you holiness!'"

The Chief of Staff had much conversation with Major Ouchterlony on the subject of holiness. The language was a slight drawback, as Major Ouchterlony knew very little English, and the Chief was unable to speak Swedish. But, as the major says, "The Holy Ghost explained what he said." Doubt and tears kept her from entering into the blessing she longed for.

One thing, she says, I know I couldn't do—that was to join the Army in Sweden. Then again there were times, when, reading the War Cry, which Mr. Bramwell sent her,

"Will you go and work in Sweden?"

"Yes, any-where. I don't care."

After six weeks in England, Major Ouchterlony went back to Sweden, after promising the Lord to speak for Him, be it ever so hard.

Whilst on a visit to Göteborg, on her way home, a minister there came and asked her to take his meeting. At once she answered, "No; how can you ask?"

Went away, and she felt wretched. Everything she saw seemed to ask, "Is this your promise?"

At last she could bear it no longer, so went to the minister and told him she would not, but he was not to announce her till he saw if she were going to have courage when she got there.

Then the devil came and told her that she didn't mind making a fool of herself, and breaking down (which she was sure to do) but that by so doing she would spoil the chance for other women who could speak, but would be afraid to go, after her. But when she came to speak all fear left her!

The Y. M. C. A. at Yonkoping asked her to lecture on the Army work. When she declined, they begged her to come again. Arriving at home, Major Ouchterlony rented a room and a kitchen, and began to hold holiness meetings. These soon covered the whole neighbourhood. People are bitterly opposed to the doctrine of holiness. Indeed, the Government would have sent her out of the place if they could; as she was a woman they could not.

A young man who had been one of her bitterest opponents was the first to get saved. After that, the work spread gloriously. Together they held cottage meetings, and all round people were getting saved. The more went and sang, and soon she had many visitors, some in carriages and some on foot, all asking the way of salvation!

Life was very full now for Hanna Ouchterlony—no fall that she had to give up her business, and devote herself entirely to spiritual work.

At the close of a large meeting which she attended in Halmstad, the minister came and asked her to lead a prayer-meeting. Again she nearly hesitated, but in spite of feelings adverse to the front. As she did so she was attracted by a young girl sitting in front of her, and had never seen her before, but said to herself, "You shall get saved and come into the Army."

That girl was Jenni Swenson, now Staff-Captain Swenson, and that night she decided for Christ.

From Halmstad, Major Ouchterlony held the Lord opening the way all round.

When she got home after this tour, a telegram and a letter from England were waiting. The telegram said—

"Congress Hall to be opened. Come!"

The letter, which was from Mr. Bramwell, said that the Lord wanted her to open Sweden.

"Impossible," she felt. However, she came to England, taking Jenni Swenson with her.

The result of this visit was that in the December of 1886, a little over four Salvationists started to open Sweden!

A hall was taken in Stockholm, but so many crowds flocked to the meetings that the police had to say for fear a riot. They had no money to attract the people; there was no need, for they could not possibly accommodate the people. After a while the hall was unable to procure a theatre and church. The church was burning down, and so at present they are trying to raise £9,000 to build a hall right in the City of Stockholm. Meetings are allowed to be held in Sweden, except in forests or castles.

At present, Major Ouchterlony has eight stations and at eight camps in all work. The difficult side of his office is that he has to visit all the places in Sweden, and this month's work is over.

WOMEN in Sweden are not like you in England," Major Ouchterlony said to us as we looked back together through her life's history. "In England you have women who are nurses, who are doctors, who do speak from pulpits. In Sweden—no—stay at home, it is the duty. We are not clever. We stay at home!"

See it was out of such an atmosphere that God brought Hanna Ouchterlony to—

"Lead the vanquished of His conquering host" as Major of the Salvation Army in Sweden.

Her father was a lawyer of much genius residing in the country, several miles from Stockholm. Her mother was a very beautiful woman of French extraction. It was not a Christian home in which this girl and her five brothers and sisters were brought up. The father or mother never talked to them of God, never read the Bible to them. On Sunday they attended church, much against their will.

Once, and only once, does Major Ouchterlony remember any one who spoke to her of Jesus when she was a child. An old sister of her mother's did. The old woman didn't know very much herself, so failed to make an impression on her listener. But though she was educated entirely for the world and society, other thoughts and desires would keep rising in her breast.

"God speaks to me all the time," she had much longing to do people good."

When still very young, she went to live with a sister of her father's in Stockholm, to take the place of a married daughter. Here she went into much society; but "life was so empty!"

One night she had a dream. She thought that Jesus came to her and said, "Follow Me." This made no impression that she never forgot. Her relatives said she was "religious," and used to laugh at her.

In church, one Sunday, she was struck with the face of a poor man, evidently poor and a stranger. Immediately after service, she went to him and began to talk. He told her he was saved. She took him home to live and then gave him help. He tried to explain the Gospel to her, but she only became more miserable than ever. When he went away, she felt as though her last hope had gone.

"At last I say, I shall have something to do with my life. I'll spend a day back-street by my home. I still live at home but have the business."

This seemed to answer for a time, till her mother, who she idolized, died; then one of her mother's children, a great pet of hers; lastly, her father married again. "Then I felt there was nothing to be done."

She tried to find pleasure in society, but her thoughts were elsewhere. One night she spoke to the gentleman who was dancing with her about eternity. He was very much surprised, and thought she was certainly going mad.



MAJOR OUCHTERLONY OF SWEDEN

"I was very alone; all were against me. I wanted to work for God, but it was not easy for women to do much. I gathered all the women I know together, and invited them to come and work for the poor. At first I did read and sing to them, but had not courage to speak or pray. I did get some courage, and went on to have cottage meetings. My home was always open."

"God did keep on telling me 'I have something more for you.' I was taken very ill, and when I got told me about the blessing of holiness. When I got better I told the people. They said—

"You are going to error," I told the Lord, and asked Him for light.

regularly on his return to England, she felt, "Oh, I will live and die with these people." But the great dread always came back again. While she was in this state of mind a letter came from Mr. Billings, asking her to visit him in Sweden. A few days after she left England. She went to Sweden, and he was in London. He asked at once if she were sanctified yet. She replied "No."

Deliverance was at hand. During a holiness meeting, held by the Chief, with the Descriptive hymn, Cady's, the Spirit of God took hold of her, sweeping away all doubts and fears, and she says herself, "I got properly saved!"

After the meeting he asked her how she was.

"I'm very happy!"

